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RE:

IN RE APPLICATION OF: GEORGE E. SMITH  
APPLICATION No.: 09/644,371  
FILED: AUGUST 23, 2000  
FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
OBSERVING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

EXAMINER: JOSEPH C. MEREK  
ART UNIT: 3727  
CONF. No: 1295

**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS**  
**FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

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Perkins Coie LLP (Perkins Coie LLC in Illinois)

Received from &lt;2063599000&gt; at 10/1/03 6:56:20 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

Attorney Docket No. 108298529US

**FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: GEORGE E. SMITH  
APPLICATION No.: 09/644,371  
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**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel for observing a chemical substance, comprising:

a base portion;

an optically transmissive wall portion projecting away from the base portion, the base portion and the wall portion defining an interface region at an interface between the base portion and the wall portion, the base portion and the wall portion defining an exterior region and an interior region, the interior region being configured to contain the chemical substance and having an opening through which the chemical substance can pass, the wall portion having an axis projecting upwardly away from the base portion; and

a background material having a first surface and a second surface facing opposite from the first surface, the first surface of the background material being fixedly attached to the base portion and/or the interface region, the first surface of the background material being visible through the wall portion from the exterior region, the background material having an asymmetrical contour about the axis.

73. (New) A vessel for observing a chemical substance, comprising:

a base portion having an outer surface and an inner surface;

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an optically transmissive wall portion projecting away from the base portion and having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first region, and a second region opposite the first region, the outer surfaces of the base portion and the wall portion defining an exterior region, the inner surfaces of the base portion and the wall portion defining an interior region, the interior region being configured to contain the chemical substance and having an opening configured to removably receive the chemical substance; and

a background material having a first surface facing toward the interior region and a second surface facing away from the first surface, the background material being positioned between the inner and outer surfaces of the base portion and the wall portion, the background material being configured so that the first surface of the background material in the base portion and the first region of the wall portion is visible through the second region of the wall portion from the exterior region.

#### REMARKS

The foregoing claim amendments are submitted for discussion purposes only in an upcoming telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

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